

To the Committee Secretary,

I would like to submit my opposition to regional bank closures. The reasons given by banks of branches not being viable is not valid because banks make huge amounts of money. Branch closures will make lots of staff members unemployed. Regional towns need their branches available to them in their own town, not the next larger town which might be 50 or 200kms away. This is not fair on the people living in small communities. Making these people drive to the next town will also creates the local businesses to fail, because people will be shopping in the larger towns when they go. There is an ongoing effect that will impact so many.

Access to cash is absolutely essential! Regional small town communities rely on supporting each other, through face to face services and support. To take these things away from people goes against everything that a bank should be.

Banks should be providing a service to all people, whether they live in a city or a rural area. They survive on these people's money. I need my bank to be present for me. I request that you do everything in your power to stop the branch closures.

Thank you

Lesley Bailey